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Jonas Fay, Ira Allen, & Abel Curtis to
Committee of Congress Feby. 12, 1782.

The Hon^{ble} Committee of Congress,

The undersigned, Delegates for the State of Vermont beg leave to observe by way of addition that in Royal Governments in America when regal power ceased the people were then left at free liberty to institute such government as might appear to them to be most conducive to their peace and happiness. In this situation a respectable number of the now citizens of Vermont in the Eastern Union (so called) formed themselves into committees of safety and Conventions. On the other part, connected with New Hampshire, in a temporary compact only, which they have since rejected, and united with the aforesaid convention, by which they have since been governed, except when in connexion with Vermont. & in this situation were those Inhabitants when the Convention was formed that united the Grants east of the River Connecticut to Vermont by which they were admitted into union with her on the two following Conditions vizt. first that the existence of Vermont should be held sacred & secondly that in case of any dispute respecting boundary lines & jurisdiction to be settled agreeable to the mode prescribed by the Articles of Confederation or by such other way as should be mutually agreed on.

That New Hampshire by extending the claim west of Connecticut River have extinguished or rendered uncertain her west Boundary line by the Royal determination in A.D. 1764, which affords a strong plea in support of the right of to a fair hearing in the settlement of said line so earnestly to be wished for in order to give satisfaction to a large and respectable Body of People three fourths parts of whom (at least) are friendly attached to the Government of Vermont, and among whom officers civil and military are duly elected and

qualified as the law directs.

That they have many arguments & records (which we are not at present possessed of) to justify their rights to a Union with Vermont, or at least a hearing in the settlement of the dispute. Not to mention their universal rejection of the requisition of New Hampshire to meet in Convention in order to form a permanent plan of Government on the late extraordinary act of New Hampshire which explicitly acknowledges the above assertion and in its effects peculiarly tends to alienate the affections of those people from that Government & its neglect of the Frontiers exclusive of the act of the Honble Congress of the 24th day of September A.D. 1779 recommending to the State of New Hampshire not to exercise jurisdiction over them, &c.

That about the year A.D. 1773 a plan was set on foot by some of the Inhabitants of the New Hampshire Grants together with Philip Sheen Esqr. for forming a new Colony in such wise as to include the Grants and to extend at least to Hudson's River on the West, to the forty fifth degree of North Latitude on the North and to Massachusetts on the South.

And in consequence of this plan application was made to the Court of Great Britain by Mr. Sheen for that purpose, who has since been well known among the British by the title of Governor Sheen.

That there are papers now in the State of Vermont under the Signature of the sd. Philip Sheen on the subject of his appointment to Government dated about the month of December A.D. 1774, mentioning among other things that he should soon call on those people to show their Loyalty to the King. These papers might reflect much light on this subject, and perhaps amount to a satisfactory proof that the said Philip Sheen did actually succeed in the aforesaid plan, and this on the

principle of Royal lines, overturns the pretensions of the claiming States, even on their own stating.

With respect to what connections may have been between the people in the Western Union and the State of New York, we further observe, that as allegiance and protection are reciprocal, when the latter is refused the former is of course void, and the people left to provide New Guards for their future safety. And this is consonant with the Declaration of Independence of the United States, and the Constitution of the State of New York, and

That there is at least eight tenths of the people in this union who are in favor of the government of Vermont & officers Civil & Military elected and duly qualified.

That many of the leading gentlemen in both the aforesaid unions who are opposed to Vermont, have been repeatedly heard to say that they have no objection to unite with Vermont if it were agreeable to the Honorable the Congress.

And that a vindication of the rights of the people both in the Eastern and Western unions thus to unite with Vermont is preparing more fully by a Committee appointed by authority for that purpose and will undoubtedly be soon published.

We have the Honor to be Gentlemen

Your most Obedient and Humble Servants

Jonas Fay.

Ira Allen

Abel Curtis

Philadelphia 12. Feby. 1782.

The Hon. Saml. Livermore Esqr.
Chairman.

Jonas Fay, Ira Allen, Abel Curtis to
Committee of Congress Feby. 7. 1782.

To the Honorable Committee of Congress.

The undersigned, delegates from the State of Vermont by virtue of their appointment and Commission to repair to the American Congress for the purposes therein named, and in pursuance of their special instructions by the Governor and Council of said State have the honor to represent—

That the citizens of that part of America formerly known by the name of New Hampshire Grants, did in consequence of certain disputes subsisting between them and some of the British Colonies of America, form themselves into committees of Safety and Conventions for the preservation of their just rights against Lawless power soon after the Edict of Great Britain in July 1764.

That this kind of Government was continued by adjournments and new Elections until after the Grand Era of American Independence & until the twelfth day of March A.D. 1788 when it emerged into a Constitutional Legislature.

That immediately after the Battle of the 19th day of April A.D. 1775. at Lexington, those Inhabitants took an offensive part against British usurpation & have since exerted themselves in common with their Brethren in America in support of the rights Liberties & Independence of the United States.

That the existance of the State of Vermont (upon revolution principles) is at least coeval with any of the Free States of America, and founded on the same Grand Basis of Liberty & therefore (in our conception) entitled to a participation of every blessing & privilege which the United States do or may in future enjoy by virtue of their stipulated Union & confederation each with the other.

We therefore take this method to express our wishes, &
do in behalf of the said State of Vermont solicit and
most earnestly request that the United States in Con-
gress assembled would recognize her Independence,
admit her into the federal union of the United
States of America, and to a seat in Congress, that
she may yield and receive mutual aid in the
general defence and obtain an equitable settle-
ment of her boundary lines.

Done in Philadelphia, in obedience
to the instructions aforesaid, this 7th day of Feby.
1782, & in the sixth year of our Independence

Jonas Fay.

Ira Allen

Abel Curtis

Hon. Sam. Livermore Esqr.
Chairman, &c.

Jonas Fay and Ira Allen to Comtee of
Congress Feby. 5. 1782.

Philadelphia, 5th Feby. 1782.

Sir,

We have the honor to transmit herewith (for the perusal of the Honble Committee) copies of the several papers following vizt.

Govr Chittenden's orders to Majr General Payne, dated 14th Decr 1781.

Majr General Payne's letter to the Honble Meshech Weare, Esqr. 21st Decr. 1781.

Lieut. Govr Payne's appointment and instructions to General Enos, and William Page Esqrs. ~~Decr. 21st~~ Decr. 21st, 1781. and a letter from Genl Enos & Ira Allen, Esqrs. to the Honble Elisha Bartlett Esqr. 29th December 1781.

Copy of a letter under the signature of Peter Faneauwurt, B. Genl dated Decr 18th, 1781, together with an answer thereto under the signature of Colo. Ebr. Walbridge dated Decr. 19th, 1781, which together with Vermont's proposals of October last on the subject of settling boundary lines, contains the principal proceedings between New Hampshire, New York & Vermont, since August last & as our Colleague (Mr Curtis) is not yet arrived, we have nothing further to add at present, but that we propose to proceed on the business of our mission whenever it may be agreeable to the Honible Committee.

We are, Sir,

Your Honors Most obt. &
very humble Servts
Jonas Fay
Ira Allen

Hon. Am. Livermore Esqr.

Letter. Jonas Fay, Ira Allen, Jan'y. 30th, 1782.
read 1st Feby. Referred to the Grand Committee
appointed Jan'y 28th, 1782.

Philadelphia, 30th, Jan'y. 1782.

Sir,

On the 14th day of August last we had the satisfaction to communicate to Congress a duplicate of our Commission to attend on that Hon^{ble} Body for the purposes therein named. We have now the honor to inclose a duplicate of our reappointment together with instructions to further negotiate the business of our appointment.

Our Colleague who was expected in town before this time, has occasioned the delay of this account, whenever he arrives (which is hourly expected) we shall then be ready to lay before Congress such papers and matters as we are, or may be furnished with on his arrival.

We have the honor to be with great respect

Your Excellency's

Most Obedt. Hble. Svts

Jonas Fay

Ira Allen

His Excellency

The President of Congress

In Council, Arlington, Jan^y. 10th. 1782.
State of Vermont.

Resolved That the Hon^{ble} Elisha Payne,
Jonas Fay Esqr. & Ira Allen Esqr. & Abel Curtis Esqr. be and they
are hereby appointed Agents to repair to the Hon^{ble} the Congress
of the United States & in behalf of this State to solicit
Congress to recognize the Independence thereof and farther
to use their best endeavours with that Honorable body that
some equitable mode be prescribed for an amicable set-
tlement of the boundary lines between this and the claiming
States. That either two or more of said agents are
empowered to proceed to business.

By order of the Governor & Council
Thos Tolman, Deput. Secy.

The following was handed the Hon. Committee of Congress, by Jonas Fay and Ira Allen, Esqrs. the 6th day of Feby. 1782, who informed the the said Committee that it contained sundry indigested ideas; some of which had been mentioned in verbal conference, and others had not: and if the Hon. Committee wished to have it delivered to them officially, would beg the favor of receiving it again for revision.

It has ever been the practice of the people of Vermont, from their first settling on its territory, to appeal to the opinions of the impartial public, in all disputes with the neighbouring governments in regard to jurisdiction or right of Soil; as well as on the nature and inherent right of those inhabitants to form themselves into a political society, and such set up and establish such form of government, as to them appeared to be best suited, and most conducive to the well being of the society; in which they have been almost universally favored with the public approbation.

But some individuals, perhaps for want of a particular acquaintance with the late situation of the affairs of Vermont, may have started the following questions, Viz. How comes it to pass, that Vermont has encroached on and taken into union with her, a part of those tracts which were formerly considered as parts of N. Hampshire & N. York? Can Vermont in this expect the approbation of the public? What reason can she assign to justify such conduct? To these queries it may be observed, that to trace the right of Vermont, together with the pretensions of the claiming States to ~~the~~ its territory, might be matter sufficient for a volume; shall therefore at present only mention the particular exigencies of the times which required it.

That the public will undoubtedly consider that the States of N. York and N. Hampshire had each of them previously laid their respective claims to the whole territory of Vermont, and had for a number of years

11 exerted their united influence at the Congress of the United States to prevent her being received into the federal union; in consequence of which, she has been for several years last past and still is exposed to the whole force of the common enemy, in the province of Quebec, destitute of any alliance to invite to her assistance, and is thereby put to the disagreeable necessity of depending (at her own expence) not only her own, but the frontiers of New-York, New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

The government of New York, about the month of April A.D. 1780, abandoning their post at Skene'sborough, the people in its vicinity petitioned that government for protection, but obtained no relief. They afterwards petitioned the government of Vermont, when her troops were directed to cover them. And about the month of the succeeding May, every article belonging to the continent, even to pick-axes and spades was called for and ordered out of Vermont, by continental commissaries, at a time when she was erecting a line of fortifications on her frontiers for her defence. In the fall of the same year, the British made a descent up lake Champlain, and lay in force at Ticonderoga, which occasioned the militia of Vermont to turn out for its defence.

While they lay in that situation Gen. Allen received a flag, from the commanding officer of the British, with an answer to Governor Chittenden's letter to General Mordaunt, dated the preceding July, on the subject of an exchange of prisoners and with that a proposal for a truce with the state of Vermont, during the negotiating the exchange.

General Allen sent back a flag of his, agreeing to the truce, on proviso that it should be extended to the frontiers of N. York, which was finally complied with, and the truce took place which lasted about three weeks.